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SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL ENDS LIBERIA DIAMOND SANCTIONS

REF: STATE 55727

¶1. On April 27, the Security Council unanimously adopted UNSCR 1753 (text in para 4), which terminated diamond sanctions in Liberia. The Security Council concluded that Liberia had met the criteria set out in resolution 1521 (2003) to create a transparent and internationally verifiable certificate of origin scheme for the trade in rough diamonds.

¶2. COMMENT: The termination of the diamond ban in Liberia is a sanctions success story. Since the imposition of the ban in 2003, the Security Council, together with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and other international actors, successfully stopped Liberian "blood diamonds" from fueling conflict in West Africa. The Security Council used the possibility of lifting the sanctions as a powerful incentive to press Liberia to make necessary reforms.

¶3. COMMENT CONTINUED: The sanctions helped to guide Liberia as it charted its way through the rough waters of democratic transition and rebuilding after years of civil war. Although Liberia faced many competing priorities over the past four years, Security Council sanctions helped the Liberian leadership to focus on critical restructuring needs designed ultimately to benefit the Liberian people. The UN Panel of Experts told the Liberia Sanctions Committee that Liberia not only implemented the much-needed reforms, but the government had taken true ownership and responsibility for the diamond certification scheme - a development that we hope bodes well for Liberia's future. END COMMENT.

¶4. BEGIN TEXT:

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and statements by its President on the situation in Liberia and West Africa,

Applying the Government of Liberia's continuing cooperation with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and noting Liberia's progress towards putting in place the necessary internal controls and other requirements in order to satisfy the minimum requirements of the Kimberley Process,

Taking note of the letter of the Government of Liberia to the Sanctions Committee, with a detailed description of the proposed Certificate of Origin regime, dated 4 April 2007,

Welcoming the interim report of the UN Panel of Experts dated 4 April 2007 and looking forward to the submission by 6 June 2007 of the UN Panel of Experts final report as requested in paragraph 4(d) of resolution 1731 (2006),

Having reviewed the measures imposed and conditions set out by paragraphs 6 through 9 of resolution 1521 (2003) and concluding that sufficient progress has been made towards

meeting those conditions,

Determining that the situation in Liberia continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

¶1. Decides to terminate the measures on diamonds imposed by paragraph 6 of resolution 1521 (2003) and renewed by paragraph 1 of resolution 1731 (2006);

¶2. Encourages the Kimberley Process to report in ninety (90) days to the Council, through the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003), on Liberia's application to the Kimberley Process and calls on the Government of Liberia to carry out the recommendations of the expert mission identified for the period following admission to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

¶3. Decides to review the termination of the measures in paragraph 6 of resolution 1521 (2003) after consideration of the report of the UN Panel of Experts as requested in paragraph 4(d) of resolution 1731 (2006) and of the report of the Kimberley Process encouraged in paragraph two (2), with particular focus on the compliance of Liberia with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

¶4. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

END TEXT.
KHALILZAD